

Spring 2013

Issue 21



First Class of LALS Majors Graduates in May!

In July of 2012, the UofL Board of Trustees approved the new BA degree in Latin American and Latino Studies, and three students, who are also Spanish Majors, are about to be the first to graduate as LALS Majors. Congratulations to Leah Dahline (center), Kelsey Stanley (right), and Rosslyn Steinmetz! Join the other LALS Majors by applying online!



LALS Collaborates with Programs to Promote the Success of Latino Students

On February 8, 2013, LALS co-sponsored the **A.C.E.S. Black and Latino Student Symposium**, which featured a dynamic presentation by José González, a Tucson high school teacher whose advocacy for Latino students is featured in the documentary film “Precious Knowledge.” In addition to attending a day-long program of sessions about ways to further develop instruction, programming and engagement of student success in and out of the classroom, LALS students Claudia López and María Karen López had the opportunity to meet with Alejandra Campoverdi, Senior Advisor for Innovation and Communications for Univisión Network News, who interviewed them as part of a focus group for Univisión’s “Fusion,” a new English language network for young Latinos.



For the past two years, LALS has been collaborating with the **Behold 1500 Latinos! - Everyone Graduates Initiative**, a program that is part of the Mayor’s 55,000 Degree Initiative to increase the number of college degrees by the year 2020. The tutoring/mentoring program began on March 23, 2013 and will continue through the summer. UofL students, recruited by the LALS Program, will serve as tutors. LAS minors, Spencer Scruggs and Erran Huber are among the first tutors to volunteer on Saturday mornings at the 620 Building, and Spencer will serve as an LAS intern for Behold as well. The initial program will aid approximately 20 Latino high school students, but our goal is to expand that to 100 students in the fall, so please consider volunteering. Information and applications are available on the LALS website.

LALS Initiates Exchanges with the Universidad de Los Lagos in Osorno, Chile

I am going to Chile! After weeks of pensive thinking, conversations with Dr. Buchanan, and a fascinating lecture by Professor James Park of *la Universidad de Los Lagos*, my mind is made up. The university is located in the city of Osorno in the beautiful Lakes region of southern Chile, seemingly as close to the tip of the continent of South America as it is to the nation’s capital of Santiago. English-speakers and even international students are few and far between, creating an immersion experience that I couldn’t escape if I tried. The remoteness of my study abroad choice, however, does not mean that it won’t be captivating. This region provides incredible access to the country’s varied, natural grandeur like green valleys, the towering Andes Mountains, magnificent lakes and glaciers, and the vast Pacific Ocean. The opportunities for outdoor experience abound, and the academic opportunities at *Los Lagos* certainly keep pace. This fall, I will enroll in Spanish-language courses focused on contemporary social movements, literature, global relations, and Chilean politics. Further academic opportunities exist at the nearby *Center of Development and Regional Studies*. Students are given the chance to intern with current research projects dedicated to territorial identity, environmental preservation, alternative economics, and marine biology or to receive mentorship on an independent project.



– Jerome Soldo, LALS Major and LALS Lewis Scholar

LATIN AMERICAN AND LATINO STUDIES AT UOFL

Camminos

LALS Interns Engage in Community Service in Louisville and Costa Rica

Service to the community, whether in Louisville or abroad, has been the cornerstone of the LALS Program since its inception in the year 2000. Internships are a requirement for LALS undergraduate students and an elective for students who pursue the LALS Graduate Certificate. Our volunteer interns have put their Spanish linguistic skills to good use and given their time, energy, and hearts to more than 20 local organizations that serve the Hispanic community, as well as foreign organizations in Argentina, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, and Panama. As our local Latino community grows, we continue to add more internship sites to our list, our most recent being Catholic Charities' Refugee Agricultural Partnership Program and the Behold 1500 Latinos Initiative. In their exit interviews, many of our students state that the internship was the highlight of their LALS program and helped them put into practice what they had learned in the classroom. For some, this culminating undergraduate experience has led to future employment opportunities. On April 2, 2012, our Spring 2013 LALS Interns will speak about their experiences at the LALS Internship Poster Session, preceding the LALS Spring Showcase. **–Rhonda Buchanan; Faculty Advisor for LALS Internships**

UofL's Latin American and Latino Studies Program offers several life-changing opportunities for students to incorporate past academic knowledge into practical settings outside of the classroom. For example, for my internship, I decided to volunteer with the Refugee Agricultural Partnership Program due to my interests in the food economy, as well as sociopolitical forces that contribute to the complexity of the food system at large. After a couple weeks of orientation, I was introduced to Nelson Escobar, the head of the Prospect farming cooperative called *La Minga*, which aims to bring fresh local food to consumers around town. My internship requires a lot of critical thinking, strategic planning, and a great deal of communicative skills. My site supervisors, Lauren Goldberg and Nelson Escobar, provide me with contexts to apply my Spanish and anthropology skill-sets. I apply knowledge from each and every class that I have taken at UofL. Moreover, as a graduating senior, I greatly appreciate all that my professors and community-partners have done for me. They instilled in me a strong basis to engage with social problems and encouraged me to think critically, to act respectfully, and to strategize ways to peacefully and effectively transform society. I strongly recommend to students of all academic disciplines to enroll in an internship around the city of Louisville. Our city really needs more active involvement from students of all disciplines. An internship can greatly benefit students and the community at large. **–Tyler Short, LAS Minor and Intern for RAPP**



For my internship this semester, I have been working at Americana Community Center in an Elementary English as a Second Language classroom and in the Family Education Program. In the Elementary ESL classroom, I have gotten the chance to work with students on reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. We spend the classes reading and doing assignments to aid in understanding. It has been difficult because the students are often at very different levels of comprehension, but also rewarding as I have already seen improvements in some students. In Family Education, I have also been working with elementary school students, but in a much different capacity. I spend my days helping with homework, as well as playing games like Hide n Seek, jump rope, and Connect Four. We also do art projects and watch movies. I have been able to form some great relationships with the students, being greeted with a hug every time I walk into the room. Working at Americana has been an eye-opening experience for me. I have worked with students from all over the world, including Mexico, Thailand, Burma, Somalia, and more. Though I will never understand exactly what life has been like for these students, I think that spending time with them has given me more understanding of their struggles, culture, and ways of life. It has been wonderful to work with these students, and I have been so grateful for this opportunity! **–Corey Long, LAS Minor and Intern at the Americana Community Center**

My experiences interning at the Iroquois Branch of the Louisville Free Public Library Iroquois Library have been both educational and inspiring. I have met and talked with countless immigrants to the United States who have taught me about their home countries, shared their life stories, helped me practice other languages, and shown me true courage. These wonderful people, who have started over in Louisville, have chosen to better their lives, as well as their English skills at the English Conversation Clubs, hosted by the Immigrant Services Librarian, Sophie Maier, and the Iroquois Library as a whole. It is truly awe-inspiring to see so many from our community come together to help one another. The language learners are not the only ones bettering themselves either. I have personally grown a great deal thanks to my time here and have enjoyed doing so, as many people do each week. All of Louisville and each of its citizens are benefitting immensely from these events, and new volunteers and English learners are always welcome. I am glad to share my home and time with such a diverse and generous people. **–Olivia Reed; Latino Studies Minor and Intern for the Iroquois Library**

During this semester, I have been volunteering at the Iroquois Branch of the Louisville Free Public Library. This has been a part of the outreach portion of my minor in Latin American Studies. With my internship, I help immigrants and refugees in the area to improve their skill in English, and facilitate a dialogue that not only helps them increase their conversational ability, but to better feel a part of the diverse Louisville community. In addition, I have enjoyed tutoring Latino students for the Behold 1500 Latinos program on Saturday mornings, which ends in time for me to volunteer at the English Conversation Clubs at the library on Saturday afternoons. **–Erran Huber, LAS Minor and Intern for the Iroquois Library**

LALS Interns Engage in Community Service in Louisville and Costa Rica



I am currently interning with the non-profit tutoring and mentoring organization, Adelante Hispanic Achievers, an organization that promotes the success of Latino students. To say that I look forward to going to Adelante is an understatement. The students I have been working with never cease to impress me with their progress, respect and perseverance. The students' engagement in activities is energizing as their creativity shines through in whatever task is at hand. Saturdays are especially fun as we go on field trips and have special presentations from leaders in the community. Two of the high schoolers recently approached me and told me that I was their role model. I thought it was funny and cute and probably due to the fact that I'm really close to their age and in college. Whatever their reason it made me smile and realize that my attendance may really

be making a difference to these students, albeit a small one. Regardless, I think that it is fantastic that Adelante collaborates with so many great organizations around town to give these students opportunities and information about preparing for college that they may not know about otherwise. **–Jenna Brumleve, LAS Minor and Intern for Adelante Hispanic Achievers**

The Family Community Clinic provides free healthcare services to the medically uninsured in the city of Louisville. As a volunteer intern, my primary task is to interpret for Spanish-speaking patients, who constitute nearly 50% of our patient base. I help patients complete the initial paperwork as well as convey their medical needs during triage and consultation. This internship has taught me many lessons in a short amount of time; most significantly, how to honestly evaluate the operation of both non-profits and healthcare. There are so many people that are helped, and one should never forget or discredit that, but still the fact remains that there are people that don't receive the help they need. For me that's often the driving force for community service. I recognize that although my actions may only affect a small pool of people, I can strive to make sure those few people are affected positively. It causes me to want to give more of myself and encourage others that are equipped and able to do the same. Now that Racing Season is about to begin, I look forward to volunteering at the Kentucky Racing Health Services Center, which serves the employees who work on the Backside of Churchill Downs. **–Stephanie Leonard, LAS Minor and Intern for the Family Community Clinic and the Kentucky Racing Health Services Center**

This semester I am volunteering at Kentucky Refugee Ministries, in their Cuban/Haitian office. I have been learning a lot about the people that come here in search of a better life and about the struggles that so many have getting here and the complicated and confusing legal processes that immigrants and refugees must endure. In many cases, they arrive in Louisville with literally nothing to begin a new life. They have so little that even mismatched sheets and random baking items are a huge help! I have had the opportunity to speak with several clients and practice my Spanish, while greeting them at the airport and helping to set them up in an apartment. I really have been enjoying the privilege of working in this office and helping to make the transition process even just a little bit easier for these clients. **–Trisha Wagner, LAS Minor and Intern at the Kentucky Refugee Ministries**

A sign saying “*Cuidado con el Perro,*” Beware of the Dog, is outside Kentucky Refugee Ministries. I used to think it was cute and funny, but after walking past it week after week, I have created a new meaning of it. As Americans, we live in an extremely diverse environment, but there remain individuals that do not value this diversity. This sign was a message to me to continue my work and dream of bridging different cultures and lending a helping hand whenever I can. “Beware of the Dog”, be cautious of the ignorance that still exists. Since interning at KRM, I have realized that volunteering, especially to help refugees, really does come full circle once you see them stand on their own feet. Knowing that I helped them stand up and they are now providing for themselves, their families, and contributing to the American economy, is an amazing feeling. Given that I work part-time for Nike, I was particularly grateful for the opportunity to help KRM organize a fundraiser, “Running for Refugees,” as part of Louisville's Triple Crown of Running. **–Kayla Wohner, LAS Minor and Intern for Kentucky Refugee Ministries**

With support from a Lewis Scholarship, I had the opportunity to travel to Costa Rica for the months of January and February to volunteer at the *Fundación Rahab*, an organization that provides services and support for women affected by sexual violence and the prostitution industry. After completing the educational program, they are able to find new jobs and change their futures. I had the privilege of spending time in the nursery where I was able to love on and care for their children. The organization is inspiring and gives hope to a group of women who need it the most. It is devastating how much need there is for the *Fundación Rahab* in Costa Rica. I learned so much by just speaking with the participants and my co-workers, and have a renewed appreciation for my country, family, and friends. It was a fantastic experience and I plan to return to Costa Rica in the near future to visit and serve more.

–Shelby Lawson, LAS Minor and Intern for *Fundación Rehab* in Costa Rica



Lewis Scholars & Fellows

Vanessa Bradley: Costa Rica
Shelby Lawson: Costa Rica & Argentina
Janeth Nuñez: Brazil
Jerome Soldo: Chile
Micah Souder: Costa Rica
Jessica Williams: Costa Rica
Kayla Wohner: Spain

Dr. Tricia Gray: Panama
Dr. Margath Walker: Mexico

Graduating Students

LALS Majors	Latino Studies Minors
Leah Dahline	Rachael Johnson
Kelsey Stanley	Janeys Leyva
Rosslyn Steinmetz	Issac Williams

Latin American Studies Minors

Naseem Ansari	Corinne Long
Jenna Brumleve	Tyler Short
Erran Huber	Anita Smith
Stephanie Leonard	Trisha Wagner

LALS Graduate Certificates

Teresa Cox
Joel Castillo Díaz
María Karen López
Melony Martínez
María Bermúdez Shaw
Brittany Stevenson



Congratulations to Our Students!

LALS Co-Sponsored Events

January 23rd, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kentuckiana Information Session; 3:30-4:30pm in Ekstrom W104.

February 12th, Carnaval Around the World; 11:00am-1:00pm in the Humanities Quad.

Wednesday, February 20, 2013: Study Abroad Opportunities in Chile at the Universidad de Los Lagos by Dr. James Park; 12:00-1:00pm in Ekstrom Library, Room W104.

February 22nd, Hispanic Keynote Lecture for the Louisville Conference, “Sergio Pitol: lo autoconsciente y la hibridez en el cuento y el ensayo,” by Dr. Russell Cluff, Prof. of Spanish at Brigham Young University; 3:15-4:15; Elaine Chao Auditorium of Ekstrom Library.

April 12, 2013: “Science, Technology, and Social Change.” Social Change Lecture by Meghan Mahoney, Policy Associate from the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab at MIT; 1:00-2:15pm in Elaine Chao Auditorium.

April 18, 2013: “Reflections on Spaces of Marginalization and Belonging Among Young People in Mexico and Guatemala,” Brown Bag Talk with Dr. Ailsa Winton from El Colegio de la Frontera Sur (ECOSUR); 12:15-1:15pm; Lutz Hall 225.

LALS Big Brothers Big Sisters Backpack Drive; Please bring school supplies and small toys to Stevenson 304 and 305 through April 30, 2013.

Desde los Cuatro Caminos



From the Crossroads

¡Saludos amigos! It's been an interesting semester with me being on sabbatical leave. I spent Wednesdays on campus handling LALS matters and am grateful to Dr. Julie Bunck for spending an hour each Tuesday and Thursday at the office for advising. I can't thank Natalie Schuetz enough for all her efforts managing the paperwork for the Panama and Lewis Scholars, attending to details for the many events we co-sponsored, and performing 1001 other tasks, including the creation of this newsletter. I would also like to thank Leah Dahline, our LALS Student Assistant and Club President, who is about to be one of the first three students to graduate with the new BA degree in LALS. She's off to Arizona to work with the organization Borderlinks, where she will put her Spanish and knowledge of Latino culture to good use. And speaking of journeys, I'm about to leave for Chile, and then on to Argentina, and finally Mexico for the final months of my sabbatical. There are advantages of being in this profession long enough that your former students become professors and invite you to speak at their universities. I'll be giving lectures at the Universidad de los Lagos in Osorno, Chile, where Dr. James Park, who received his BA in Spanish at UofL, is a professor. He participated in UofL's Louisville Conference this February and gave an LALS presentation about study abroad and internship opportunities in Chile, soon after meeting with Dean Ferré and other officials about establishing an agreement between our two universities. LALS major, Jerome Soldo, jumped at the opportunity to be the first UofL student to study in Osorno during our fall semester (spring in Chile!). Twenty-five other UofL students will be traveling to Panama for the 11th Annual Study Abroad Program in May. We wish our Panama Scholars and their professors, Dr. Al Futrell, Dr. Tricia Gray, and Prof. Berta Calvert, a wonderful trip! –Rhonda Buchanan, LALS Director



Latin American & Latino Studies



Latin American and
Latino Studies Program
College of Arts and Sciences

Offices: Stevenson 304, 305, & 306
University of Louisville
Louisville, KY 40292

Phone: (502) 852-2034

Email: rhondabuchanan@louisville.edu
<http://louisville.edu/latinamericanstudies>



[facebook.com/UofLLALS](https://www.facebook.com/UofLLALS)